

# Overview



## **MISSION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE**

**INSTITUTE:** The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) conducts and supports research on many serious, chronic diseases: diabetes and other endocrine and metabolic diseases and disorders; digestive diseases; nutritional disorders; and kidney, urologic, and hematologic (blood) diseases.

The NIDDK's Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolic Diseases (DEM) supports basic and clinical research in the areas of diabetes; obesity; cystic fibrosis; osteoporosis; and other, often rare, endocrine and genetic metabolic diseases. The Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition (DDN) supports research toward understanding, preventing, and treating diseases of the esophagus, stomach, intestines, liver and biliary system, and pancreas, as well as research on obesity and basic nutrition research. The Division of Kidney, Urologic, and Hematologic Diseases (KUH) supports research into chronic kidney disease and kidney failure, urologic diseases, the development of the genitourinary tract, and hematologic diseases. The DEM, DDN, and KUH Divisions all support extramural research—research by scientists at universities and other medical research institutions throughout the country. The Institute's Division of Extramural Activities provides leadership, oversight, tools, and guidance to manage the Institute's grants policies and operations, including efforts related

to the scientific peer-review process for assessing grant applications. The NIDDK is also home to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Division of Nutrition Research Coordination, which provides advice and coordination for nutrition research. The NIDDK's Division of Intramural Research consists of government scientists who conduct research across a broad spectrum of basic and clinical topics. With respect to clinical research, extramural and intramural, the research progress since the Institute's establishment reflects the contributions both of NIDDK-supported investigators and of the patient volunteers in clinical studies. The Institute also supports research training for students and scientists at various stages of their careers, and a range of education and outreach programs that aim to bring science-based information to patients and their families, healthcare professionals, and the public.

## **ESTABLISHMENT AND HISTORY OF THE**

**INSTITUTE:** On August 15, 1950, President Harry S. Truman signed the Omnibus Medical Research Act (P.L. 81-692) into law, establishing the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, the forerunner to the NIDDK. In the ensuing years, the Institute was renamed several times. In 1986, one of the Institute's former Divisions became the core of a new, separate NIH component focused on arthritis and other diseases, and the Institute acquired its current name: the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases—the NIDDK.